United Nations S/2018/350

Security Council

Distr.: General
16 April 2018

Original: English

Letter dated 13 April 2018 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government, and with reference to my letter dated 12 April 2018 (S/2018/337), regarding the interception of three Houthi ballistic missiles and the downing of two Houthi unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) by Saudi Air Defence Forces on 11 April 2018, I am writing to inform you that, on 12 April 2018, Saudi Air Defence Forces intercepted a Houthi ballistic missile launched from inside Yemeni territory (Saadah Governorate), targeting densely populated civilian areas in the city of Jazan. The interception of the missile led to the dispersal of shrapnel in residential areas.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia condemns in the strongest terms the continuation of the Houthi militias' indiscriminate terrorist ballistic missile attacks. Furthermore, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia notes with regret that the Security Council's inaction in the face of blatant violations of its resolutions, in particular the arms embargoes established pursuant to its resolutions 2216 (2015) and 2231 (2015), has allowed Iran to furnish the Houthi terrorist militias with large and growing stockpiles of ballistic missiles, UAVs and sea mines. The Houthis have used, and will continue to use, these illegally obtained weapons to threaten the regional stability of the Middle East and the safety of maritime navigation in the Red Sea and the Mandeb Strait.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia calls for the full implementation of all relevant Security Council resolutions in order to prevent the smuggling of additional weapons to the Houthis and to hold violators of the arms embargo accountable. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia furthermore calls for the Security Council to take urgent measures to address the stockpile of Houthi weapons and to disarm this terrorist militia in order to prevent the escalation of these attacks, which raise regional tensions and raise the risks of a broader regional confrontation.

My delegation requests that the present letter be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Khaled **Almanzlawiy**
Deputy Permanent Representative
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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United Nations S/2018/351

Security Council

Distr.: General
17 April 2018
English
Original: Russian

Letter dated 13 April 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith information bulletins from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic for the period from 12 to 13 April 2018 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have these bulletins circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) V. **Nebenzia**

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Annex to the letter dated 13 April 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (12 April 2018)

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The situation in the de-escalation areas has been assessed as stable.

The Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported six incidents of gunfire in the following Governorates: four in Ladhiqiyah, one in Aleppo and one in Damascus.

The Turkish representative office has reported two incidents of gunfire in Idlib Governorate.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

The Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic has not carried out any humanitarian operations over the past 24 hours.

In total, 1,782 humanitarian operations have been carried out.

The total weight of humanitarian cargo delivered is 2,514.1 tons.

Over the past 24 hours, medical assistance has been provided to 124 residents.

In total, medical assistance has been provided to 77,320 residents.

Reconciliation of opposing sides

Over the past 24 hours two ceasefire agreements have been signed with Asilah and Abu Hamamah in Hama Governorate.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process has increased to 2,503.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 234.

Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (13 April 2018)

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The situation in the de-escalation areas has been assessed as stable.

The Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported four incidents of gunfire in Ladhiqiyah Governorate.

The Turkish representative office has reported two incidents of gunfire: one in Hama Governorate and one in Idlib Governorate.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

Over the past 24 hours the Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic has carried out one humanitarian operation in Ashrafiyah, Homs Governorate, to deliver canned meat, sugar and rice weighing a total of 1.9 tons.

In total, 1,783 humanitarian operations have been carried out.

The total weight of humanitarian cargo delivered is 2,516 tons.

One United Nations humanitarian convoy — comprising 19 refrigerated trucks — was assured passage to Tall Shihab in Dar'a Governorate. The total weight of cargo delivered was 123 tons.

Over the past 24 hours, medical assistance has been provided to 143 residents.

In total, medical assistance has been provided to 77,463 residents.

Reconciliation of opposing sides

Over the past 24 hours two ceasefire agreements have been signed with Samad in Aleppo Governorate and Dumaynah in Hama Governorate.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process has increased to 2,505.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 234.

United Nations A/72/834–S/2018/352

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
18 April 2018
English
Original: Arabic

General Assembly
Seventy-second session
Agenda item 34
Prevention of armed conflict

Security Council
Seventy-third year

Identical letters dated 14 April 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

At 0355 hours on Saturday, 14 April 2018, in a flagrant violation of the principles of international law and the provisions and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations, the United States, Britain and France carried out a treacherous and brazen attack against the Syrian Arab Republic when they launched approximately 110 missiles at the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic, including the capital Damascus and other Syrian cities and areas.

In response to this unjust attack, the Syrian Arab Republic exercised its legitimate right of self-defence to repulse the criminal aggression. Syrian air defence systems were activated against the missiles of this tripartite attack. However, some of the incoming missiles managed to hit a building that is part of the Scientific Research Centre in the Barzah neighbourhood of the capital Damascus and which houses an education centre and scientific laboratories. Losses were restricted to material damages. Missiles aimed at a military site near the city of Homs had their trajectories diverted. The explosion of one of those missiles resulted in injury to three civilians.

The Syrian Arab Republic condemns the tripartite United States, British and French attack against it in the strongest possible terms. The attack yet again demonstrates what can only be explained as a reckless disregard for international legitimacy on the part of those States, even as they blather on about international legitimacy repeatedly and dishonestly. It demonstrates that those States believe only in the law of the jungle and the logic of power, even as they occupy permanent seats on the body to which the Member States of the United Nations have entrusted primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security and the prevention and suppression of acts of aggression in accordance with the principles and purposes of the Organization's Charter.

This attack by these arrogant hegemonic Western regimes stems from the frustration felt by those States and their clients in the region in the wake of the failure of their conspiratorial enterprise directed against Syria. It comes in response to the defeat of the terrorist groups who are those regimes' proxies in the wake of the

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progress being achieved by the Syrian Arab Army in eastern Ghutah and other parts of Syrian territory.

This attack was timed to coincide with the arrival in Syria of a fact-finding mission from the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). That mission is coming to Syria at the request of the Syrian State, which will be greatly facilitating its work as it investigates the alleged chemical attack in Duma. The missile attack was intended to undermine, pre-empt and pressure that mission in an attempt to provide cover for the lies and fabrications of the regimes that perpetrated the attack and prevent them from being exposed.

The Syrian Arab Republic calls on the international community and the Security Council to resolutely condemn this attack, which will only inflame tensions in the region and the world, and which constitutes a threat to overall international peace and security.

This brutal and treacherous attack has been met with high morale on the part of the Syrian people, who have come out into the streets and public squares to condemn it. The attack will have no effect whatsoever on the resolve and determination of the Syrian people and their courageous Army to hunt down the remnants of takfirist terrorism and the remaining gangs of foreign terrorist fighters until all parts of the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic are liberated; to defend the sovereignty, territorial integrity and unity of Syria; and to restore security and stability to all corners of the country.

I should be grateful if this letter could be issued as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 34, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations S/2018/353

Security Council

Distr.: General
19 April 2018

Original: English

Eighteenth report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 4 of Security Council resolution 2107 (2013)

I. Introduction

1. The present report, submitted pursuant to paragraph 4 of Security Council resolution 2107 (2013), covers developments pertaining to the issues of missing Kuwaiti and third-country nationals and missing Kuwaiti property, including the national archives, since the issuance of my previous report, dated 15 January (S/2018/40).

2. On 11 January 2018 in Kuwait, my Special Representative and Deputy Special Representative met with the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Khalid Al Hamad Al Sabah, who underlined that, notwithstanding positive steps taken by the Government of Iraq over the past few years, no concrete progress had been achieved on the file of missing Kuwaiti persons and property. Sheikh Al Sabah highlighted the importance of the relevant government institutions of Iraq exerting greater effort in the search for both missing persons and missing property, in particular the national archives. My Special Representative reaffirmed the commitment of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) to implementing the Security Council mandate, outlining some of the Mission's current activities, including accessing high-resolution and satellite imagery and facilitating the transfer of technical skills.

II. Recent activities with regard to the repatriation and return of all Kuwaiti and third-country nationals, or their remains

3. During the reporting period, the Ministry of Defence of Iraq continued to investigate a number of potential burial locations, including the Sabahiyah and naval base sites in Kuwait and the Khamisiyah, Radwaniyah, Suleimaniyah and Salman Pak sites in Iraq. As part of those efforts, the Ministry followed up with witnesses, as well as with relevant government bodies, to verify all acquired information in an effort to identify exact burial locations. While no new developments were registered, the sites in question will remain open as the Ministry continues to search for more information. The technical team of the Ministry also undertook exploration and excavation works at the Khamisiyah, Karbala' and Samawah sites. No human remains or grave-like features were found. Results from the exhumations conducted in October 2017 at potential burial locations in Basrah and Najaf were, unfortunately, negative. Calls for witnesses, most recently on 29 January 2018, inviting those with information on missing Kuwaiti persons and missing Kuwaiti property to come forward, continue to

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be broadcast regularly on satellite television channels by the Office of the Spokesperson of the Ministry of Defence of Iraq. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has provided much needed technical assistance to the Ministry, donating forensic equipment in support of field work.

4. On 6 February 2018 in Kuwait, UNAMI attended, in its observer capacity, the 102nd session of the Technical Subcommittee of the tripartite mechanism. The Iraqi, Kuwaiti and ICRC delegations emphasized the critical importance of satellite and aerial imagery in identifying potential burial locations and reiterated a request to other members of the mechanism to provide imagery or analysis of imagery from 1990 and 1991. In support of this, members approved the offer by UNAMI to share areas of interest with the Global Service Centre in Brindisi, Italy, in order to check the availability of satellite imagery. The Iraqi delegation also submitted a request to the members of the tripartite mechanism for technical assistance, including training on the use of ground-penetrating radar, as well as on properly documenting field work in compliance with the ICRC review project recommendations relating to the application of appropriate methodology. ICRC and UNAMI are currently studying how best to assist, drawing on available expertise and resources. As a follow-up to the 13 November 2017 visit to the Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus, UNAMI explored the possible use of metal detectors in search of potential burial sites. Consultations with the United Nations Mine Action Service in Iraq have, however, revealed that metal detectors would not be suitable as a primary search tool, although they could prove useful in complementing the search. The members of the tripartite mechanism have decided to hold a one-day meeting of the sub-advisory working group on 22 April 2018 specifically to consider the findings and recommendations of the ICRC review project. Comments from members will form the basis of a plan of action intended to streamline and prioritize the work of the mechanism and guide its future efforts.

5. On 26 March 2018, my Special Representative met in Baghdad with the Minister of Defence of Iraq, Irfan al-Hayali, and underlined that the file of missing Kuwaiti persons remained high on my agenda. He further welcomed the hosting by Iraq of the next meetings of the tripartite mechanism in Baghdad. Mr. Al-Hayali stressed the resolve of the Ministry to continue playing a proactive role with respect to this important humanitarian dossier.

III. Recent activities with regard to the return of Kuwaiti property

6. During the reporting period, UNAMI reiterated to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iraq its readiness to facilitate and observe the official handover of located Kuwaiti property and offered assistance in transporting by air the itemized Kuwaiti books currently located at the Ministry, once agreement has been reached between the two States on the dates of the handover. UNAMI continues to work with the Ministry on how best to implement and expedite the process.

IV. Observations

7. Achieving concrete results on the file of missing Kuwaiti and third-country nationals and missing Kuwaiti property, including the national archives, is essential for the full normalization of relations between Iraq and Kuwait. I welcome the dedication demonstrated by both Member States in ensuring that this file receives substantial and continued attention.

8. I commend the efforts of the Ministry of Defence of Iraq on reviving the search for missing Kuwaiti persons and its disposition to take on board requests, recommendations and advice from Kuwaiti counterparts and members of the tripartite mechanism. Moving the file forward after a 13-year absence of tangible results requires commitment, determination and a willingness to employ new and innovative methods. I look forward to constructive discussions between members of the tripartite mechanism on implementing recommendations and findings arising from the ICRC review project, which have the potential to reinvigorate the file. UNAMI stands ready to provide support and assistance, guided by the valuable advice of ICRC and the needs of the tripartite mechanism. With this in mind, I strongly encourage Member States, and particularly members of the mechanism, to provide any information or documentation available that could help to identify burial locations and respond to the requests of the Government of Iraq for technical and forensic assistance.

9. I remain disappointed that there have been no developments with regard to the missing Kuwaiti property and reiterate the call for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iraq to expedite the official handover of located Kuwaiti books. Much more needs to be done to bolster the search for the invaluable Kuwaiti national archives.

10. I reaffirm the unwavering commitment of my Special Representative and Deputy Special Representative, as well as of UNAMI staff, to playing an active role in this important humanitarian endeavour by continuing to promote, support and facilitate the efforts of the Government of Iraq towards this end.